THE WRESTLING FLYER NEWSLETTER

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INTERVIEW
HONKY TONK MAN

The Honky Tonk Man (Roy Wayne Farris) phoned in on John Arezzi's Pro Wrestling Spotlight Radio Show on 3/6 and spoke about a subject that has not been widely talked about or given much media attention. The subject was the current U.S. Justice Department's investigation of the WWF and Titan Sports. At this point, not much is known about what stage the investigation is in or exactly what direction it's headed in. They have questioned many former and current employees of Titan but that is supposed to be confidential information. However, Honky told Arezzi's listeners about how he was subpoenaed by the government and flown up to New York a couple weeks ago and was questioned by two FBI agents for about four hours. The following brief interview with Honky was conducted by the editor, John Clark, via telephone from his home in Memphis, TN on 3/14 to understand why he spoke out on this.

Clark: What made you decide to go on John Arezzi's radio show and bring up the whole subject of the Justice Department investigation of the WWF and Titan Sports, and what part you had in it?

Honky: Simply because I hadn't been reading too much about that particular investigation that has been going on. It's like it has been a hush-hush deal by all the writers and all the media people, for some unknown reason. It's quite obvious that it is going on and that it is taking place. Myself personally, I was subpoenaed there. I didn't go there on my own free will. I was subpoenaed by the government to go. But yet none of the wrestling newsletters or anything seem to be giving it any coverage at all. They seem to be giving all the coverage to the fact that Titan Sports and the WWF have got so many lawsuits against other people. Lawsuits against Geraldo's show, Nailz, David Shults, Rita Chatterton. But, nothing about the fact that they are being investigated by a federal agency. And that just seemed odd to me. And then to have two wrestlers that they had on Arezzi's show that night sitting there... Terry Funk, being as diplomatic as he possibly could and always will be, not wanting to step on anybody's toes or say anything wrong, I guess. When you get to a point in your career where Funk is, at his age, what do you have to lose by coming out? I mean, step up to the plate and be a man. Say what is on your mind. I felt like the Mexican performer (Konnan) was saying what he felt and how he felt about the way he had been treated in various organizations. But, nobody seemed to want to touch the other thing (investigation) at all. I hadn't been reading anything in any of the newsletters about it. So, I had a chance to get on the line and I just said what I felt needed to be said. And as long as you tell the truth, you've got nothing to worry about. And everything was the truth.

Clark: Do you have anything against Vince McMahon? Has he caused you any personal or financial harm?

Honky: Harmed financially? Well, sure. I haven't received all of my royalty payments from the merchandising. We're still in the process of trying to discover what should be paid to me, what I hadn't been paid for, how much I should be paid for it, all those things. You're harmed financially when you're not paid for something that's due to you. As for wrestling, in the last year or so, there hasn't been any wrestling harm financially because everybody knows that now the wrestlers are free and independent agents and able to go and work wherever they want to and when they want to. And even Titan themselves now let their wrestlers go work elsewhere now.

Clark: Do you think one of the reasons why this particular subject- the investigation of the WWF and Titan Sports- is not being covered or isn't being widely talked about is because of the power Vince McMahon and the WWF has in the wrestling business?

Honky: Yeah, I'm sure. I guess it's easy for a guy to be scared off or be afraid of litigation. I live by the fact that the truth is the truth- there's no in between- and if you believe in what you feel and you believe that you are right, then you pursue. And a lot of people, although they do have the beliefs, they won't pursue it because they might be afraid. They're afraid of someone like Titan, who can afford very expensive lawyers and can litigate things, and the fact that they go after someone after Geraldo. I mean, when you say, "Well, he's suing Geraldo." Well, that scares a lot of little people away. When it comes to smaller shows or television shows that are not as powerful as Geraldo, and they see that there's a lawsuit... "He's suing the New York newspaper." Well, all your smaller publications aren't going to dare do anything because they just can't even afford to defend themselves period. I mean, anybody can sue anybody. The point is, whether it ever goes to court. You know, the end result. It is a scare tactic. It's a normal legal tactic. There's nothing wrong with it.

Clark: Do you think they are going very deep into this investigation?

Honky: They ask a lot of serious questions and a lot of questions- some I could answer and some I couldn't. I would venture to say so (going deep into the investigation). I wouldn't think the government would spend the kind of money that they're spending on this if they didn't feel like they were going to go from top to bottom. I mean, they're just not playing around with one or two people, it's a very in-depth investigation.

Clark: What do you personally hope will come out of all this?

Honky: Personally, I would have hoped that they would have gotten to the bottom of the royalty payments and the things that are owed to me. But obviously, I don't think that's part of the investigation, that I know of! I hope that they'll just get this business cleaned up a little bit now and get it back on track and to have it treated like any other sports business. Not so much secrecy and not so much behind the scenes going ons. A little bit more open and honest as far as the wrestlers and how they're used and how they're treated and things of that nature.

Clark: Do you think that all these scandals in wrestling and the lawsuits and the investigations are hurting the business a lot?

Honky: I don't know that it is. I've always believed any publicity is good publicity, no matter what kind it is. I don't know that you could say that something would be bad. Wrestling is just a business that was never reported on or never even brought to the attention of the national media sources until a few years ago. The worse someone is or the more it's reported on or the more bad deeds that are reported on- especially in the entertainment business- the more the people are intrigued by it and want to go watch it. I don't think that the scandals and the investigation could hurt the wrestling at all. I think it's just the way the wrestling business has been handled as far as the way they've presented their product to the public- as far as the way they've used their talent and their angles and things like that is what has hurt the business.

Clark: Where do you see the business going from here?

Honky: To me, I think it's the normal up and down that happens in every business, if you take a long look at it. It will bounce back again. When? Who knows? I don't think anybody ever expected it to go as big and be as a big of a phenomena as it was in the 80s. Will it bounce back for the 90s? It's possible. It might be another ten years or twenty years before it ever rebounds. But, it's like a cycle. I can remember with boxing when you couldn't give a boxing match away. And then all of a sudden, it took off. And now boxing is back down on a low spot again. Wrestling goes the same way.

Clark: Are you against the WWF at all and could that be one of the reasons why you're exposing the investigation and what's been going on?

Honky: No, I didn't really decide to speak up about anything. I was subpoenaed into my part of all that. Because I really didn't have anything to say about it. It's just something that I didn't have any comments on. I was concerned about these millions of dollars of the merchandise that's being sold on a nationwide basis, and me not being compensated for it.

Clark: What do you think will be the outcome out of all this?

Honky: I really don't know. It wouldn't be right for me to speculate on what I think the outcome would be because I have absolutely no idea of what the target of their investigation is, or anything about it. Anytime you go in front of a jury- that's what it was, it was a Grand Jury- it can be 50/50. Anytime you walk into the courtroom, you can either be guilty or not guilty. It wouldn't be right for me to speculate because I haven't heard all the testimony.

Clark: What do you see for your future in wrestling?

Honky: I'll just keep doing the independent thing. I'll only work as much as I want to work, when I want to work, where I want to. That's what's important to me. I'm able to spend a lot of time at home or as much time at home as I want to and able to work as much as I want to. I don't need a whole lot. I'm not driven by that greed and envy or having all those wordly possessions. I'm not driven by having to have all those things. So it puts me in a different financial situation. I'm able to live a very comfortable life and do the things I want to do and be happy, and that's what's most important. I'll probably get back into the school system and start coaching and teaching again, being involved with young people and being involved with everyday activities with people. Cause I enjoy that. I'm either teaching or entertaining. It's really all the same. I won't crawl in a hole somewhere and die. I mean, a lot of people feel when they're not in the WWF or they're not in the wrestling business that they have no life. When all this is over, when I'm not even involved in wrestling anymore, I want to look back on it just like the jobs I had when I was in high school or when I was in college and say that was something I used to do. When you look back and say, "Oh yeah, that's something I used to do." Heck, I used to drive a truck, I used to pump gas, and I used to cut people's lawns. That's something I used to do. And wrestling will fall in that same category- that's something I used to do.

Clark: Has your life changed in a big way since leaving the WWF?

Honky: It's still the same. Nothing changed for me because I knew that going in... I wasn't some young rookie coming into this business when I went there. I had my eleven or twelve years in this business and I understood what I had to do and what needed to be done. Because this is a business, and I treat it that way. It's a business for me. It's a business for the promoters. It's a business for the vendors. It's a business. And I treat it that way. I have people on payroll that have to be paid. I've got accountants and lawyers, and I've got an agent, and I've got a secretary that has to be paid, and bookkeepers. You have to treat it like a business, and I knew that going in. I had my head on straight when I was in the WWF. No matter what, it boils down to a check coming in on a weekly basis. The end result is not what you make or how you make it, it's what you save. (People are only in the business to make money) Hopefully, that's why they should be there or they shouldn't be in it. If you're in it for something other than money, then it can get to be a hassle because it is a costly business even to stay in. It costs you money to be in any business, I don't care what it is. There's x amount of dollars you have to put into it. If the guy has no brains about finances at all and he totally doesn't care about the money, if he's a young single guy and just wants to have fun and spend it all, wrestling and any form of entertainment or sports is a great business. But there comes a time when you can't just say, "Hey, this is great." It's time that you look towards the future. We have no protection. There's no compensation when it's all over other than what you have saved or what you invested. You've got to watch what you're doing. Financially, you've really got to be on your toes about what you're doing because you can end up being physically busted and also financially, too. It can happen in football, baseball, in Hollywood, it can happen anywhere.

INTERVIEW
KERRY VON ERICH

The following interview with Kerry Von Erich (Kerry Adkisson) was conducted by the editor, John Clark, via telephone from Adkisson's home near Dallas, TX back in late July 1992. It is being reprinted from the August 1, 1992 issue. At age 33, Kerry took his life on 2/19 as he shot himself in the chest on the farm owned by his father (Fritz Von Erich - Jack Adkisson). The interview is followed by comments from several people who were close to Kerry Adkisson.

Clark: I was wondering how you first got started in wrestling and what kind of an influence your father had on it.

Adkisson: My father was a great, great wrestler. And like all little kids, boys want to be like their fathers- especially if they're successful. My father was really successful. He was one of the greatest promoters in the history of this sport. My brother Kevin came in first. Then, my brother David. And then, I came in. Then, Mike came in. Then, Chris came in. But, I came in becuase of my father and his success in the business and owning the promotion here in Dallas. That was probably the promotion that pioneered all of wrestling. If it wasn't for my father, the WWF

would have never come along, or WCW or anything else. And we firmly believe in that.

Clark: Your father probably trained you, but did you receive training from anybody else?

Adkisson: Yeah my dad trained me in fighting. A great, great Greco-Roman wrestler from Iran named Khosrow Vaziri- who went into the WWF as The Iron Sheik- he's one of the greatest amateur wrestlers ever in our business. He helped me out a lot and I used to wrestle amateur with him when I used to fight amateur through high school as well as through Texas and all over the United States as a young kid. I started wrestling in elementary school. I was seven years old when I first started wrestling. I also played football at Lake Dallas High School and the University of Houston. In high school, I was an All-American in football and went on to college and was an All-American in track & field, and set the world record in track & field in college. I set the world record in high school track & field eleven different times- but that was all in the discus. In 1980, they boycotted the Olympics and I stepped out of college and right into pro wrestling.

Clark: Was your father's promotion just about your favorite group to ever work for?

Adkisson: Yeah, but I got say that I appreciated the WWF. I appreciate the charisma that they've added to our sport. I don't appreciate some of the showmanship that they've added to it. But as far as the charisma and the gasoline they've put in it to fuel our sport, I do appreciate that.

Clark: Turning back the clock to around February of this year, you had disappeared for the scene for a while. Could you discuss with us what happened to you?

Adkisson: Well, I stepped out because I went to Betty Ford. I just got locked up in pain killers and drugs. It came a time where I realized if I kept on doing drugs to keep on kicking ass and taking bumps in the ring, that it was going to finally kill me. When you start doing drugs, you get lost in them. I wasn't doing drugs to party. I was doing drugs to keep myself going, keep myself well, keep injuries down, and to keep myself in the gym. I know so many people that I know are in them that are in our business. I'm one of the few, one of the very few that got help. Maybe one out of a thousand of us have stopped and got help. Whenever there's a lot of injuries involved, whenever there's a lot of heartache with death and family, you try to escape a lot, you try to medicate those feelings. You just find out you're going down a one-way street. I speak a lot now all over the United States and all over the world to kids on leadership, goals, Jesus Christ, drugs, friends, family, and everything else. But, I would not know about the problems with drugs if I didn't deal with drugs. I would not know all the problems with death if I didn't deal with death. I would not know the problems in family without dealing with family problems. Those are all a gift from God, although they're a very misconceptionized gift, they are a gift because I did learn from them. And anything you learn from is a gift. (After my motorcycle accident) That's whenever I started getting access to a lot of pain killers and stuff. But, it was way before then. The death of David just almost killed me. I almost blew my f__in head off when David died. In fact, I would have been happy to. My brother Kevin felt the same way. My brother David was our whole world. He was one of the brothers. Then, my brother Mike killed himself, and that ended my world again. Then, my brother Chris... who idolized me in everything I did. He always wanted to be like me. He always told me, "Kerry, man, you got everything. How come, why do you have everything?" I used to tell Chris, 'You've got things that I want, too. Like the ability to laugh at things, and your ability to draw, and the ability you have with your hands, and to love- just your ability to love alone is something I value and wish I had. But, he always wanted my athletic ability. But, I don't care who you are, what you are, or what you think you are, the grass is always greener over someone else's fence. It's always greener somewhere else. These baseball players are making a million bucks, and I'm making a million also. We're both making a million, but then again, he's playing baseball. I wonder what baseball is like. And so, you want to try something else, you want to do something else. That's the way my brother Chris was to me. Really, that's the way all the brothers are. I mean, I envy Kevin's values as far as his quickness in the ring. His love for children, I envy that. I envy David's ability for his love that he gave other people and his love for the state of Texas. Mike, I envy his ideas, his sense of humor, his strength, his willpower- I envy that. But, it's not something I would take from them. But, it's something that when they died, I took out of them and tried to put into myself. Anytime I took the world championship, my brothers were never, "Oh no, Kerry got it again." They were never that way, they were on my side. They never said, "Hey Kerry, slow down, back off the pace a little bit and give Kevin, David, Mike a chance to get into the limelight." It was, "Hey man, go for it." Whoever is in the press is who's doing the time. I just did a lot more at the time than they did.

Clark: What was actually happening to you mentally when you got arrested?

Adkisson: It was all out of depression. It was all out of being out of control. Thank God it happened because if it didn't, I'd be dead. I really would. Thank God for Betty Ford and for so many other things that pulled me out of the drug world. Vince McMahon was the one who helped me go to Betty Ford. He straightened me out in that way. And so, that's why I can't sit here and say, 'Yeah, they're a bunch of ripoffs, bunch of thieves, a terrible show.' Cause I'll never say that against them.

Clark: Then, what was really good of them- after they got you the help- was they brought you back in...

Adkisson: Oh, sure they did. Vince has totally supported me in that. I don't have a problem with that. I just had a problem with... I'm an idealistic kind of person when it comes to my business, and my business is keep people believing. I don't believe in telling five, six, seven year old kids that there's no Santa Claus. I don't believe in going out and telling people that our business is not for real. I believe that our business is something that we've all fought our guts out for, and we'll die for it. My dad has given his total help to this business. Gene Kiniski, Joe Blanchard, Johnny Valentine, Buddy Rogers- these guys have made our business for real, have given their total lives for it. I'll be damned if I'm going to be one of them who lays down and says are lives aren't worth s___ and that this is just how it is. I'll tell you what, money is the key motivation in our business until you sit back and look at the values. I'm second generation. My father was a fighter. I live because of this business. I survive because of this business. People who just come walking in off the street and say, "I want to be a wrestler" and become a wrestler, and because they're big and goofy looking, Vince makes them a big, big star. And they never paid their dues. They never went through it as a kid, being beat up in school because some kid says your dad is a fake. I mean, I had to kick his ass, and I got my ass kicked over and over again. So, we learned to care and respect and do anything we can to keep this business alive. I got my ass kicked too many times because I was trying to make other people believe. I will, on my deathbed, sware that this business is real. Just remember, WWF is sports entertainment. But, it's time to go back to the old school and protecting our business and working our ass off in the ring and doing whatever it takes to take our business back to the top. And put on the skills, the motivation, the desire, the love, and the needs that this business has got to have in order for it to survive forever. If you want it to go ten years, then the WWF is it. But, if you want to make it go forever, WWF isn't it.

Clark: You seem to now have all of your priorities and your values in order. Did the Betty Ford clinic help you see these things?

Adkisson: These values were already there. But values that I lost because of being in drugs. I've always had these values. It's just that drugs take away a lot of values, a lot of pride people have inside. It's painful and very sad to see, but that's just the way it is. Here's a stat for

you, out of everybody that has ever gotten into drugs, only 5% ever have gotten out. Drugs make you a liar, a cheater, a thief, and everything else. My marriage stayed strong through the whole thing. What broke us up was trials and the deaths of brothers over and over again. It's losing the sight of values, things like that.

Clark: How did you feel about being on the road as much as you were when you were with the WWF?

Adkisson: When I'm on the road, I'm very much to myself. I go from the airport to the hotel. I eat, I go to the gym and train, and then I go back to my hotel room and I just cool out before the fight.

Clark: How did your family react when they found out about the problems that you were going through?

Adkisson: They were supportive. They were ready to see me get off drugs. They knew that it was a one-way street to nowhere. Everybody thought that I would be the next one (of the Von Erich brothers) to die. The big news story hit my mom and dad here and they called them while I was out of the country and said that I hung myself. My mom and dad really flipped out. My brother Kevin heard it, too. And Kevin believed it and my mom and dad believed it totally. In fact, my dad went to one ranch and my mom went to the other ranch. And all my dad's Christian friends gathered around my father and stayed by his side- them thinking that I had committed suicide. Then, I came back into the country and I called my father. And I'll never forget the sound of his voice. One of his friends answered the phone and his friend said, "Jack, it's Kerry." My dad's first sound of his voice was, "Nooo!" He said, "Son, son, son, are you okay?" He couldn't believe it. He didn't have words. It was like someone's son coming back to life. You've got to remember, I had so many brothers commit suicide that all of a sudden, when we hear that stuff- we believe it first and then we don't believe it second, cause you don't get that second chance. It was really something. But, it was on all the news here in Texas and all the radio programs that I had killed myself. Until I got back into the country and they saw that I was alive... All the channels- channel 8, channel 4, and channel 5, everybody retracted that I killed myself. It was on all the radio stations and everything.

Clark: That is one thing that I've noticed- that your hometown and around the Dallas area is really behind you and your family. That was quite evident at the funeral of your brother David becuase the whole Dallas area was in shock and filled with sadness.

Adkisson: When my brother David died, the funeral was bigger than the Kennedy funeral. The police department- helicopters and the motorcycles- they stopped all the traffic on the highway going to David's grave sight. It was incredible. It was a great, great feeling. There was a lot of people who felt like they lost a brother. You've got to remember, my brothers and I competed in high school and college, and everything we did was put on TV. Every time I scored a high school touchdown, it was on the news. They used to call my football team... not Lake Dallas Football Team, they called it Adkisson & Company in the newspaper. That made me feel good. It showed me that my state was behind me.

Lisa Barrett (the mother of Kerry's girlfriend): The morning the day he killed himself, he called me and told me that he appreciated everything that I had done for him- because I had helped him a lot- and that he loved me and that his girls (Lacy and Holly) adored me- they were here a lot. He said he was so sorry that Lacy had given me the chicken pocks and he said, "If you need me to do so, I'll hire an around-the-clock nurse to take care of you." He was a very, very kind man and very generous. He stayed here a lot and would always want to pay for things or buy groceries or something like that. He would have given you the shirt off his back if he thought that you needed it. I never let him spend one penny here. I didn't need it and I was very glad to help him because he had mentioned that he didn't have any place to call home. It made me feel good that he felt like this was his home. In fact, one day, he said, "If I could pay all the bills, could I stay here?" I said, 'No, as long as you don't have any place to stay, you can stay here without paying one red cent.' He was just very special. He was just one hell of a man, a gentleman. A very troubled man, but a very nice man.

Road Warrior Hawk (Mike Hegstrand): Kerry Von Erich was a very big-hearted guy. I think a lot of people thought that he was out in left field a little bit. But, in my eyes, only the ones who thought that, were the ones that Kerry let think that because they really weren't his friends. I know I was his friend and I got along with him and I'll sorely miss him. But, I think he had a lot of tragedies in his life previous to his own ending his life. It's a sad thing, but what actually ticks me off and makes me mad is that there wasn't some parental guidance there, that three brothers preceded him by suicide. What kind of a father did he have? Fritz Von Erich, from what I had heard in my ten years in this business, had been told that his boys were out of control. I'm not a father, but any one of my friends that were out of control, I'm going to help. He seemed to turn his head. He prostituted in David's death. There's nothing Fritz Von Erich can do to me, so I can call him a crumb, cause that's what I think he is. I don't think he was a father at all. I would be ashamed to be him as a father. But, I'm really going to miss him, because I got along with him good. Everybody has different relationships with each individual, but I can truthfully say that I love him and he had a big heart. But, I think that he was kind of a product of his environment. I don't think that he had much love and support. I think he was cheated out of some family love, some family guidance. He had already had a previous problem with prescriptions that got him on probation. Didn't they find cocaine in his car? Yeah, well that's pretty heavy. Anybody that's involved with stuff like has got a problem. I think he lacked support and love. You know, the boys will help and support. I remember when the youngest brother committed suicide. Kerry really worried about how Kevin was handling it. Kerry said to me, "Mike, it's almost like it don't even effect me emotionally anymore. It's like I'm used to it." He said all he was worried about was Kevin. I said, 'There's only two of you left. You are the pillar strength, in my eyes, and you are the only one that's going to be able to help Kevin.' But unfortunately, he couldn't help himself. I don't think he had a fair shake. He had a really big heart. I feel bad that I'm never going to be able to see him again, because I love him as one of the boys, he was my friend. He was lacking something, and I think it was love. It is a very sad thing. Three of the six children in that family committed suicide. There's something drastically wrong there. It's a crime. I'd hear guys say, "He's out in left field and now he's beyond that, he's in the bleachers." But, I know Kerry well enough to tell you, he knew when people treated him like that. He let them believe that. I know he wasn't an idiot and he wasn't an airhead because I've sat down with him too many times and he was doing the scenario- well, let them think that you're playing their game, but they're actually playing yours, and they don't know it. He'll be missed by everybody. I'm sure everybody feels bad about it, even the ones that didn't know him. I'm going to miss him. I always enjoyed his company. But unfortunately, I'll never have it again. I don't know Kevin as well, but I hope he makes it.

"The Man Formerly Known as Ultimate Warrior" Jim Hellwig: If there was anything that caused this it was having to live up to what the Von Erich name meant with Kerry because he was the one that had the package. If the accident was the point in time when things starting falling apart, I don't know. That's the way they wanted to push it in Texas, in the newspapers and stuff- was that he finally couldn't deal with the loss of his foot anymore. Kerry had learned how to deal with that physically and mentally. He had the problems way before that. When he was ten years old, he was hitting the ring trying to save his dad and he'd go to school and defend the fact that "wrestling's real." When you have to cope with things like that at such a young age, they build the foundation for the way you're going to be the rest of your life. There was no place Kerry could go in Texas without people knowing who he was. Kerry knew that nobody wanted to know him or he was raised in such a way. Nobody wanted to know his problems. Kerry never complained

about anything, ever. I don't know if it was just a genuine love for the business, because he did love the business. His problem got so out of hand that he couldn't be to the business what he possibly could have been. I was real close to Kathy (Kerry's ex-wife) and his kids. Kerry was just a big kid. His poor kids didn't think it was him (Kerry in the funeral home), they thought it was a mannequin. They think he's out on tour or something. Kerry's problem was he had a bad drug problem and he couldn't go to his father because of the respect in combination with the way they looked up to their father. He didn't want to let him down. Or, Fritz denied the whole thing all the time to himself that Kerry actually had a problem. We all have our different beliefs and philosophies about what we think our role is while we're alive on this earth. Kerry and his brothers believed that when you're gone, you go to that better place and you're reunited with your loved ones. All his brothers who committed suicide has written in some way that, "I walk with my brothers. I'm going to see my brothers." Kerry mentioned that a lot, that he missed his brothers. He was my best friend. I loved Kerry. At the funeral, I was just looking at him with his hair all straight back. I tried to mess his hair up because Kerry wasn't that way. I was crying and laughing because I'm thinking of the stuff that happened with us and all the funny times and all the ribs he used to pull, and that goofy laugh he had. Then I'd get mad and upset, and then I'd laugh. Kerry was like a brother to me. We would go to hotels and just get one room, and if they only had one bed, then we'd just sleep in the same bed and not even think about it. We were just brothers. We didn't even think about it. And people that saw us probably thought was the hell is going on? This never even crossed my mind for one second- to even think of what other people thought because I just loved him so much. He openly enjoyed the experiences of life without thinking minute by minute about what's happening. But, he lived life minute by minute. Whatever came his way, it didn't matter. If he wanted steak but all he could get was dog meat, he'd enjoy the dog meat. He didn't get upset over anything. He never talked bad about anybbody. Even if there were three or four guys around talking about other people, Kerry would just do something stupid and make everybody laugh. And the next thing you know, the subject would be changed. But, he wouldn't say anything against anybody. Then again, he wouldn't say anything to stick up for the person either. He wouldn't cause any controversey. He just remained neutral, but he had a great talent for just making things go in a good way instead of a bad way. (His suicide) Everything was happening then. The fact that they had issued the warrant for his arrest and the combination of everything. I don't think the prison thing was the icing on the cake, I think it was just the whole bowl of wax. He just felt like maybe he didn't have anything left. There wasn't a minute, even in his last minutes, that he took to complain or try and make somebody understand why he might want to do something like that. He just did it. The last words he said was, "I love you," he said that to his dad. If Kerry went to judgment, man, he's in heaven. You can't bring him back. Life just goes on, though. The sun comes up and the sun goes down. It doesn't stop. When you're close to somebody that leaves you, you expect that it should. But it doesn't. It just goes on. You know, Kerry was a workaholic at whatever he was doing at that particular miunte. He would give everything to it. If we were hanging out together, my mind might be someplace else and thinking about something that I couldn't do anything about. If we were at the movies, Kerry was into the movie and the chocolate almonds. I would be into the movie and the chocolate almonds but it wouldn't be my priority. My head would be someplace else. Kerry's head was into eating them chocolate almonds. We had a thing for chocolate almonds. We used to get ten or twelve boxes each and just munch out on chocolate almonds and get the big sugar rush. And then, we'd get sleepy in the movies and our wifes would get mad at us. If we were at big airports, he would buy the homeade cookies and dip them in milk and bring them on the plane, if he knew we were on the same flight. It's early in the morning and here comes Kerry with the cookies. It's like, I can't believe this guy! He talked about being with his brothers a lot and what it was going to be like when he finally got to go and see his brothers. I hope for Kerry's sake that the party is every bit as good as he expected it to be. Because there's one thing he didn't know in doing what he did. He thought it was going to make some people's lives easier. But, it's going to make it harder. His girls are going to have a real hard time with it.

DINO BRAVO DEAD AT AGE 44

Dino Bravo, real name Adolpho Bresciano, 44, was found dead at approximately 12:30am on 3/11 in his home in Laval, Quebec, Canada, after suffering multiple gunshot wounds. His wife discovered him.

According to Laval Police Department Investigator Joe Kardos, Bravo was shot six times in the head and once in the arm on the night of 3/10 with a .380 caliber gun. Kardos said there was no other signs of violence on the scene and that Bravo was alone in his home at the time of his murder watching TV. Kardos also said police found 17 cartridges on the scene from two different guns, a .380 caliber and a .22 caliber.

No suspects were in custody as of 3/15. Although, Kardos recognized that Bravo had been close to relatives and friends who were involved with the Italian Mafia family in Montreal, but "there isn't any evidence yet to prove that he was involved in it." *The Montreal Gazette* also mentioned an apparent illegal cigarette ring that Bravo was involved in. They would transport cigarettes from the United States into Canada and sell them there. One of Bravo's friends, Gino Brito, had been indicted last year for loan sharking but only spent a brief time in jail.

VADER LOSES AND REGAINS WCW TITLE DURING SUCCESSFUL EUROPE TOUR

Sting (Steve Borden) defeated Big Van Vader (Leon White) on 3/11 at the Wembley Arena in London, England to capture the WCW title for his third time. Vader, who had won the title from Ron Simmons just ten weeks earlier and had just signed a four year contract with WCW for about $500,000-$600,000 a year, was caught coming off the top rope by Sting and subsequently was powerslammed and pinned in a match that lasted about sixteen minutes and was described as the best match they've worked together. The title change happened on the first night of WCW's current tour of Europe in front of about 11,000 (Wembley Arena seats 12,000) fans with an estimated gate of about $350,000, which is right on par with the WWF's biggest gate on their most recent overseas tour. On the last night of the six city tour, 3/17, at The Point in Dublin, Ireland, Vader regained the WCW title ending Sting's extraordinarily short reign as WCW Champion for just six days. The finish came after Vader and Sting collided with referee Nick Patrick, knocking him out, and Harley Race then ran in the ring and knocked out Sting. The referee was revived by Race to see Vader powerbombing Sting, and then made the three count. With this unusual turn of events, it is unclear about how WCW will handle this situation with its United States audience.

JIM ROSS HEADED TO WWF

Jim Ross, who had been WCW's lead announcer for the last five years before resigning from his position with them on 2/25, has agreed with Titan Sports to become an announcer for the WWF upon receiving his official written release from WCW, which he is expecting to receive when Bob Dhue returns from Europe on 3/18. Ross was at the WWF TV taping in Augusta, GA on 3/9 to discuss his future employment with officials of the company. He will appear at Wrestlemania in Las Vegas on 4/4, but his role in the event has not been completely clarified at this time. His broadcasting duties and assignments also haven't been entirely worked out yet. He will continue to do the radio show in Atlanta for the time being but he will eventually be moving to the Stamford, CT area. In a story that has now become related to Ross' plans to work for Titan, the WCW is very interested in acquiring Sean Mooney and his name is being talked about in the WCW offices.

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

The Superstars TV taping was held on 3/8 at the brand new Coliseum in North Charleston, SC before about 8,500 fans. Highlighted matches of the night saw Tiger Jackson (The Bushwhackers in corner) beat Little Louie (The Beverly Brothers in corner) in a midgets match, Crush beat

Doink the Clown by DQ, Yokozuna beat Typhoon, Jim Duggan beat Barry Horowitz by countout and then they re-taped the match and Duggan pinned Horowitz, Bam Bam Bigelow beat Owen Hart, Kamala and Papa Shango wrestled to a double-countout, Giant Gonzales beat Virgil, Undertaker beat Yokozuna by DQ, Lex Luger battled Mr. Perfect to a double-countout, and Bret Hart beat Bam Bam Bigelow. Also, Hulk Hogan returned to the ring and wrestled in his first match since last year's Wrestlemania, and teamed with Brutus Beefcake, who made his return after a two and a half year absence from the ring. They beat The Beverly Brothers when Hogan pinned Wayne Bloom after hitting him with Jimmy Hart's megaphone. They had the signing of the WM contract for the Bret Hart-Yokozuna match that night and after they both signed it, Yokozuna attacked Hart and gave him the butt-drop off the second rope. Receiving tryouts that evening were; Todd Champion as he beat Ricki Nelson, Bryan Clark (The Nightstalker) as he beat Reno Riggins, Killer Carl Wallace as he lost to Jim Powers, and Mike Shaw (Norman) as he beat Jerry Stevenson. Money Inc, Steiners, Shawn Michaels, and Razor Ramon didn't appear at the taping.

Challenge TV tapings were held in Augusta, GA on 3/9 and highlights included Nasty Boys beat Beverly Brothers when Sags pinned Beau, Doink beat Jim Powers, Jim Duggan beat Damian Demento, Lex Luger beat Tito Santana, Mr. Perfect beat Papa Shango, Hulk Hogan & Brutus Beefcake beat Beverlys when Hogan pinned Beau after hitting him with Hart's megaphone, Tiger Jackson (Bushwhackers in corner) beat Little Louie (Beverlys in corner) when Butch dropped Jackson on top of Louie, Crush beat Doink by DQ, Undertaker beat Giant Gonzales by countout, Bret Hart beat Yokozuna by DQ when Fuji hit Hart with the flagpole in a match where Hart had Yokozuna in the sharpshooter for a short period of time. Mr. Hughes (doing his same gimmick from WCW) beat J.D. Stryker and Mike "Norman" Shaw beat Barry Horowitz in tryouts. The Boxing Turtles (Tommy & Terry), dressed in the Ninja Turtles outfits, beat Ron Preston & Jerry Stevenson. Also that night, they once again had the signing of the contract for the Hart-Yokozuna match at Mania with Yokozuna pushing the table over on Hart and splashing him after the contract was signed. Gene Okerlund did an interview with Beefcake & Hogan with Beefcake wearing a hockey mask to protect his face.

At the weekly USWA show in Nashville, TN on 2/6 with a sold out crowd, Randy Savage beat Jerry Lawler by DQ with interference from Jerry Jarrett and Savage battered Jarrett with Lawler's USWA belt after the match. Also on the card, Jarrett beat Scotty Flamingo... The WWF's extra PPV for 1993 will be a "King of the Ring" tourney taking place on 6/13 tentatively scheduled to emanate from Dayton, Ohio... At the WWF taping in Fayetteville, NC on 3/7, Tatanka wrestled a squash against George South with Shawn Michaels running in and getting chopped over the top rope by Tatanka... Post-Wrestlemania matches for April have Hart-Bigelow, Yokozuna-Duggan, Luger-Perfect, Undertaker-Gonzales, Beefcake-Michaels, Steiners-Money Inc, Tatanka-Shango, Nasty Boys-Headshrinkers, Crush-Doink, Backlund-Demento, Santana-Ramon, Kamala-Skinner, Owen Hart-Taylor, Bushwhackers-Beverlys. Missing are Big Bossman, Virgil, Typhoon, and Repo Man... The WWF stars have been appearing on Family Feud 3/15-3/19... Razor Ramon returned on the 3/15 Raw after being out three weeks... The "Storm of 1993" over the 3/13 weekend caused shows to be canceled in Pittsburgh, PA (3/13), Youngstown, OH (3/13), Rochester, NY (3/14), and Binghanton, NY (3/14). The crew for those dates were stranded in Pittsburgh, which got about 25 inches of snow, for two days... Formerly The Ultimate Warrior Jim Hellwig mysteriously dropped his $5 million plus lawsuit that he had filed just a month ago against Titan... Ted DiBiase has been out of action with a herniated disc in his neck but is expected to be back for Wrestlemania... Owen Hart injured his knee on 3/8 in North Charleston, SC in his match with Bam Bam Bigelow and is expected to be out for three to four weeks...Luna Vachon and the Long Riders are headed in... Nightstalker was offered a two year deal after his tryout and he's very excited about signing it and will go to work for WWF after a few more months with SMW... The WWF acknowledged Vince McMahon on the 3/15 Raw as the CEO of Titan Sports and the WWF. That's the very first time they have ever recognized that fact on their productions. They have always portrayed Jack Tunney as their president.

WWF at the Hearns Center in Columbia, MO on 3/5 with about 2,400: Terry Taylor beat Stevie Ray. Crush beat Skinner. Jerry Sags beat IRS. Giant Gonzales beat Virgil. Damian Demento beat Jim Powers. Mr Perfect beat Papa Shango. Doink the Clown beat Tito Santana. Bret Hart beat Bam Bam Bigelow. -By Peter Josten

WWF at the A.W. Diddle Arena in Bowling Green, KY on 3/6 with about 3,500: Taylor beat Reno Riggins. Demento beat Powers. Doink beat Santana. Gonzales beat Virgil. Crush beat Skinner. Sags beat IRS. Perfect beat Shango. Hart beat Bigelow. -By Ronnie Crowder

WWF at the Cambria County War Memorial in Johnstown, PA on 3/11 with about 1,000: Skinner beat Powers. Santana beat Repo Man. Kamala beat Kimchee. Steiners beat Beverlys. Mr. Perfect wrestled Lex Luger (sub for Ramon) to a double-countout. Backlund beat Demento. Hart beat Bigelow.

WWF at the Forum in Montreal, PQ on 3/15 with about 4,500: Virgil beat Taylor. Tatanka beat Rick Martel. Crush beat Doink. Santana beat Demento. Luger and Perfect wrestled to a double-countout. Steiners beat Beverlys. Undertaker beat Yokozuna by DQ.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

This years's Beach Blast PPV will air live on 7/11 from the Gulfcoast Coliseum in Biloxi, MS... The Steiners-Hell Raisers match was pulled from the 3/7 Japan Supershow PPV resulting from a letter from Titan threatening a lwasuit as they claim they own all rights to the Steiners.

WCW at the Dorton Arena in Raleigh, NC on 2/7: Vinnie Vegas drew against Steve Regal. Maxx Payne beat Erik Watts. Marcus Bagwell & 2 Cold Scorpio beat Tex Slashinger & Shanghai Pierce. Dustin Rhodes beat Barry Windham in a US title match. Big Van Vader beat Sting via DQ. Brad Armstrong beat Barbarian. Cactus Jack beat Paul Orndorff. Brian Pillman & Steve Austin beat Rick Steamboat & Shane Douglas.

WCW at Wembley Arena in London, England on 3/11 with 11,000 (about $350,000 house): Van Hammer beat Scotty Flamingo. Johnny B. Badd beat Vinnie Vegas. Maxx Payne beat Cactus Jack cleanly after a splash. Paul Orndorff beat Michael Hayes after a piledriver. Barry Windham and Dustin Rhodes wrestled to what was announced as a double-countout, but a count was never made by the ref (the ref and agents broke up the fight and Windham went to a hospital afterwards to get stitches in his head)- and many think it became a legit fight. British Bulldog beat Rick Rude by DQ when Rude grabbed the ref as Bulldog was going for the powerslam in about 28:00. Sting beat Big Van Vader to win the WCW Championship. -By David Wright

WCW at the NEC Arena in Birmingham, England on 3/12 with about 11,500 fans: Hammer wrestled Payne to a time limit draw. Hayes beat Flamingo. Bulldog beat Vegas. Rude beat Badd. Vader beat Cactus. In a bunkhouse tag team match; Sting & Rhodes beat Windham & Orndorff when Sting pinned Orndorff after hitting him with a boot (weapons used in the match: tables, chairs, fire estinquishers, coat hangers, duct tape, brass knuckles, and the plastic bag over the head). -By David Wright

WCW at the G-Mex Centre in Manchester, England on 3/13: Badd beat Flamingo. Payne beat Hayes. Bulldog beat Vegas. Windham & Rude were set to wrestle Rhodes & Hammer, but Rhodes and Windham went at it before the match started and they were taken back and it was a singles match that saw Rude beat Hammer with the rude awakening. Vader beat Cactus. Sting beat Orndoff. -By David Wright

WCW at the AECC in Aberdeen, Scotland on 3/14 with a sellout of 5,000: Badd beat Flamingo. Hammer beat Payne. Orndorff beat Hayes. Cactus beat Vegas. Rhodes and Windham battled to a double-countout. Sting beat Vader. Bulldog beat Rude by DQ. -By David Wright

WCW at the Point in Dublin, Ireland on 3/17: Badd beat Flamingo. Hammer beat Payne. Rhodes vs Windham -double-DQ. Bulldog beat Vegas. Orndorff beat Hayes. Rude beat Cactus. Vader pinned Sting to regain the WCW title. -By Colin Bowman

THE INDEPENDENT SCENE

WWA at the Clementon Coliseum in Clementon, NJ on 3/6 with 290: The Mummy (Rochester Roadblock) beat Ed the Razor. Somalian Warrior Sasheen beat Chuck Sloan. Boy Gone Bad beat Mr. Terrific. WWA Junior Champion Ray Odyssey beat Lightning Kid in the best

(Continued on the final page)

ENTATIVE

APRIL/MAY 1993 WWF/WCW EVENT SCHEDULE

TENTATIVE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			APRIL 1 WCW NORFOLK VA	2 WCW WINSTON-SALEM NC	3 WCW CHARLOTTE NC	4 WWF LAS VEGAS NV# WCW FAYETTEVILLE NC
5 WF PHOENIX AZ* ICW CENTER STAGE*	6 WWF TUCSON AZ* WCW COLUMBUS GA	7	8 WCW SALINA KS	9 WWF BOURNEMOUTH ENG WCW MANHATTAN KS	10 WWF EXETTER ENGLAND WCW KANSAS CITY MO	11 WWF SHEFFIELD ENGLAND
12	13 WWF NEWCASTLE ENGLAND	14 WWF ABERDEEN SCOTLAND WCW NEW YORK NY	WWF 15 LONDON ENGLAND BRIGHTON ENGLAND WCW BALTIMORE MD	WWF 16 LONDON ENGLAND BIRMINGHAM ENG WCW CHICAGO IL	WWF 17 GLASGOW SCOTLAND BIRMINGHAM ENG WCW DETROIT MI	18 WWF GLASGOW SCOTLAND WCW TORONTO ON
19 WF NEWCASTLE ENGLAND NARNBERG GERMANY	20 WWF BELFAST IRELAND WCW MONTGOMERY AL	21 WWF DUBLIN IRELAND WCW CENTER STAGE*	22 WWF ESSEN GERMANY WCW FT MYERS FL	23 WWF FRANKFURT GERMANY WCW LAKELAND FL	24 WWF BARCELONA SPAIN WCW JACKSONVILLE FL	25 WWF MILAN ITALY WCW MELBOURNE FL
26 WF MANHATTAN CENTER*	27 WCW GAINESVILLE GA*	28	29 WCW GREENVILLE SC	30 WCW RALEIGH NC	MAY 1 WWF LANDOVER MD UNIONDALE NY WCW ROANOKE VA	WWF 2 PROVIDENCE RI SPRINGFIELD MA BINGHAMTON NY WCW HARRISONBURG VA
3 WF WORCESTER MA*	4 WWF PORTLAND ME* WCW CENTER STAGE	5 WWF SHEBOYGAN WI HARTFORD CT	WWF 6 MADISON WI YOUNGSTWON OH WCW TERRE HAUTE IN	WWF 7 MILWAUKEE WI RICHFIELD OH WCW HAMMOND IN	WWF 8 AUBURN HILLS MI SPRINGFIELD IL WCW INDIANAPOLIS IN	WWF 9 ROSEMONT IL VALPARAISO IN WCW LOUISVILLE KY
10 WF MANHATTAN CENTER*	11	12	WWF 13 SAN DIEGO CA SAN ANTONIO TX WCW ALEXANDRIA LA	WWF 14 LOS ANGELES CA HOUSTON TX WCW HOUSTON TX	WWF 15 SAN FRANCISCO CA AUSTIN TX WCW NEW ORLEANS LA	WWF 16 FRESNO CA BEAUMONT TX WCW MOBILE AL
17 WF MANHATTAN CENTER* CW MAIN EVENT TAPING	18 WCW WORLD WIDE TAPING	19 WCW CENTER STAGE*	20 WCW BALTIMORE MD	21 WWF PITTSBURGH PA HERSHEY PA WCW PHILADELPHIA PA	WWF 22 PHILADELPHIA PA E RUTHERFORD NJ SARNIA ON WCW DALTON GA	23 WWF OSHAWA ON HAMILTON ON WCW ATLANTA GA#
24 WF HALIFAX NS*	25 WWF SYDNEY NS	26 WWF PEMBROKE ON KITCHENER ON	WWF 27 OTTAWA ON NIAGRA FALLS NY WCW COLUMBIA SC	28 WCW AUGUSTA GA	29 WCW JACKSONVILLE FL	30 WCW TALLAHASSEE FL
31 WF MANHATTAN CENTER* BILOXI MS						

* NOTES A TELEVISION TAPING

\# NOTES A PAY-PER-VIEW EVENT

WCW HAS NOT YET DETERMINED THE LOCATIONS FOR THEIR 5/17 AND 5/18 TELEVISION TAPINGS

ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

match of the night. Chris Candito & Chris Evans beat Lords of Darkness to win the WWA tag titles. WWA Champion Spider beat Samurai Warrior in a loser leaves town match. They return to Clementon on 4/3 with Big Bossman as they've worked out a deal with the WWF to use some of their stars when they're not booked for WWF dates... On 3/6 in Grafton, MA on Killer Kowalski's IWF show Kowalski beat The Honky Tonk Man... IWCCW in Glenhead, NY on 3/5: Ray Odyssey beat Flex Lavender. Tommy Dreamer won a 15 man battle royal by throwing out Chris Candito. Tazmaniac beat Candito. Greg Valentine beat Dreamer. Also, Nurse Vanessa (heel) wanted to manage Valentine, but Madusa Miceli came out and attacked Vanessa, who turned face. IWCCW on 3/6 at the Hamburg, PA Fieldhouse: Chip the Firebreaker beat The Nomad. Tazmaniac beat Gino Caruso. Dreamer beat Dr. Johnny Wildside. Sioux War Party beat Executioners in one match and Rockin' Rebel & Johnny Rotten in another... Tod Gordon's ECW taped its first three weeks of TV set to air on Sports Channel in Philadelphia on Tuesdays starting on 4/6 at the Cabrini College Fieldhouse in Radnor, PA on 3/12 in front of 300 fans. Tommy Cairo and Johnny Hotbody wrestled to a double-DQ, Super Destroyers beat Hell Riders, Cairo beat Wildman Salvitore Bellomo by countout, Rockin Rebel beat Tony Stetson, Jimmy Snuka beat Larry Winters, Bellomo beat a jobber, that jobber then beat manager Don E. Allen, Glen Osbourne beat Hotbody, Winters & Stetson beat Samoan Warrior & Chris Michaels, Sandman beat Kodiak Bear, Eddie Gilbert beat J.T. Smith, Cairo beat Super Ninja by DQ, Destroyers beat Ninja & Canadian Wolfman, Snuka beat Cairo, Gilbert pinned Osbourne but the decision was then reversed when the referee found Gilbert with brass knucks, Rebel beat Frank Cody, and Snuka beat Osbourne in the finals of the TV title tournament. Sandman is ECW's Champion, Jimmy Snuka is ECW TV Champion, and Super Destroyers are ECW Tag Champions. The following day's scheduled taping was postponed due to the terrible weather conditions in the Philly area this weekend. Another taping will be scheduled in the next couple weeks... Congratulations to Earthquake John Tenta and his wife Josephine Tenta on the birth of their son John Frank Tenta, born on 3/12/93 weighing in at 9 lbs., 6 ounces... On 4/8 on 88.7 WPSC FM, Who's Slammin' Who radio show returns with host Johnny Gnatt (George Tahinos)... Jake Roberts vs Demolition Ax is the main event for a card being held on 3/19 at the high school in Bayonne, NJ... Jerry Lynn was removed from the big NWA indie show on 4/17 in Minneapolis and now it's Chris Candito vs Brad Rheingans and Horace (local wrestler) vs Tazmaniac... Wendell Weatherbee has a show near Portland, ME on 3/25 with Jake Roberts, Nailz, Jimmy Snuka, and Ax... Killer Kowalski has shows on 3/16 and 3/17 outside of Boston with Snuka vs "Mountie" Jacques Rougeau.

FLYER NEWSLETTER BACK ISSUES- INTERVIEWS WITH: #4: Jerry Lawler, #5: Paul Roma & Johnny B. Badd, #6: Iron Sheik & Jimmy Snuka, #7: Bruno Sammartino, #8: Kerry Von Erich, #9: Sammartino, #10: Terry Taylor, #11: Hawk & Taylor, #12: Marty Jannetty, #13: Jannetty, #14: Animal, #15: Buddy Landel, #16: Davey Boy Smith & Paul Ellering, #17: Jake Roberts, #18: Roberts & Bill Watts, #19: Various, #20: Madusa, #21: Madusa, #22: Paul E. Dangerously, #23: Earthquake. Each back issue is $2 ($3 outside of U.S.) (no color photo) and can be ordered by sending the proper payment to the Flyer address.

In an effort to improve the quality of this newsletter, we would appreciate it if you would please phone in a report of any live shows you attend within a day after the event is held, to our hotline (215)566-6590. THANK YOU.

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